



A.C.S. ACTIVITY

American Citizens Services Newsletter

Your Vote Counts! Did you know that many U.S. elections for Congressional seats have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by absentee voters?

All states are required to count

every absentee ballot as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the

absentee ballot receipt deadline. Follow a few simple steps to make sure that you can vote in the 2018 U.S. elections:

1. Request Your Ballot: Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). *You must complete a new FPCA after January 1, 2018 to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2018 elections.* The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all **elections for federal offices (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives)** including primaries and special elections during the calendar year in which it is submitted. The FPCA is accepted by all local election officials in all U.S. states and territories.

You can complete the FPCA **online** at www.FVAP.gov. The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. We encourage you to ask your local election officials to deliver your blank ballots to you electronically (by email, internet download, or fax, depending on your state). Include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. Return the FPCA per the instructions on the website. FVAP.gov will tell you if your state allows the FPCA to be returned

electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature. If you must return a paper version, please see below for mailing options.

Voting in 2018 U.S. Elections

2. Receive & Complete Your Ballot:

States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office and states generally send out ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. For most states, you can confirm your registration and ballot delivery online.

3. Return Your Completed Ballot: Some states allow you to return your completed ballot by email or fax. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can use international mail, a courier service such as FedEx or DHL, or you may also drop off completed voting materials during regular business hours at the U.S. Consulate General in Auckland. Place your materials in a postage paid return envelope (available under "Downloadable Election Materials" on the FVAP homepage) or in an envelope bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, and address it to the relevant local election officials.

4. New this year – email-to-fax service by FVAP! - the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will provide an email-to-fax conversion service for voters who have difficulty sending election materials to States that do not accept emailed documents.

Story continued on page 4...

Contact your Embassy

New Team Members

U.S. Embassy
Denver Street #3
11th Micro District
Ulaanbaatar, 14190 Mongolia
Hours: **Monday to Friday, 8:30am-5pm**

Phone: **+976 7007-6001**
Fax: +976 7007-6014
After hours emergency phone: 9911-4168
American Citizens' Services Time:
Every Tuesday 1-3pm (except on U.S.
& local holidays. Appointments needed.)

E-mail: **ulaanbaatarACS@state.gov**
Web: **<https://mn.usembassy.gov>**
Facebook: **USEmbMongolia**
Twitter: **USEmbMongolia**

We want to introduce Bryan, Jenny, and Jeff to your Consular team. Turnover is a regular aspect of life in an Embassy. The typical length of a tour for an officer is two years, but some may choose to extend for a third year. We are very fortunate to welcome three new competent members to our team. Take comfort in knowing that they are experienced and professional additions to our already skilled staff.

Jenny is excited to be in the "Country of Blue Sky." She is a former Peace Corps volunteer, AmeriCorps volunteer, and has worked in the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Bryan comes to Mongolia having previously served in Malaysia.

Jeff is a Special Agent with Diplomatic Security Service, previously serving in Azerbaijan.



Change of schedule

Please note that our previous ACS hours on Tuesdays from 4-5pm have been cancelled. But, you can still come see us! Every Tuesday from 1-3pm is

saved explicitly for ACS appointments.

You can make an appointment here: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=ULN&appcode=1>

You can also go to our website and find the tab "U.S. Citizen Services", click on "Citizenship Services", and then find on the right side "Schedule an Appointment".

TIP: Flu Vaccine

Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every season. You should get your vaccine two weeks before the flu starts spreading in your community so antibodies have time to develop. Flu hits Mongolia from October to March. You can ask a local medical facility for a flu shot by saying: "Би томуугийн вакцин хийлгэх гэсэн юм."

Laurel Hanson loving living in Ulaanbaatar

Meet Laurel—she moved to Mongolia for a job and has loved living here. Despite arriving in December, she has since found that Mongolia has amazing landscapes. She loves just being outside and getting out of the city to go hiking or horseback riding with friends. Laurel also enjoys yoga, meeting new friends, and exploring UB. Laurel loves the Gobi Day Spa in Royal Garden and is happy to pump it up. It never seems to be very busy – although it might be now that the secret is out!

Laurel has been known to get overexcited when in new places and when learning new words. When she first came to UB, she thought the word for “restaurant” must be “pectopah” because she didn’t realize that it was written in Cyrillic. She awkwardly kept referring to restaurants as “pectopahs” when she would go out to lunch with her new co-workers. They were so nice that it took them awhile to ask why she was doing that. After explaining, they all had a long laugh. She says “It’s nothing that a bit of self-deprecating humor can’t turn into a great story.”

“For me the opportunity to work in a new environment and to learn from working in a new culture was extremely exciting.”

Laurel has worked in International Development and Humanitarian Operations since 2011. She always found that co-workers

who have worked and lived abroad have a better grasp of what is necessary to advance work in the sector. She’s really valued learning from them, and would like to be able to provide similar advice and support in the future.

Laurel works at the INGO People in Need, or “PIN,” as their Head of Programs. People in Need is a Czech based NGO founded in 1992 by a group of war journalists and volunteers who came together and decided to provide help in crisis situations. PIN came to Mongolia in 2009 by providing emergency assistance to herders affected by “dzud” (keep reading to find out what that means). Since then, PIN started more than 12 projects:

- **Right to Breathe** provides information systems, coordinating civil society organizations, and enhancing transparency and accountability on air pollution data in Ulaanbaatar and Arkhangai.
- **Leveraging Technology and Tradition for Resilience** increases the resilience of herder communities in four provinces to drought, dzud and climate change.
- **An emergency response program for the dzud**, produced by extreme cold temperatures combined with the summer drought, which contributes to high livestock mortality when animals cannot graze.



Story continued on page 4...

Travel Warnings & Alerts

Level 3: Reconsider Travel to:

<i>Location:</i>	<i>Posted on:</i>
Russia	June 15, 2018
Turkey	June 28, 2018

Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution in:

<i>Location:</i>	<i>Posted on:</i>
China	January 22, 2018
India	January 10, 2018
Indonesia	January 10, 2018
Papua New Guinea	July 25, 2018
Philippines	April 13, 2018

Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions in:

<i>Location:</i>	<i>Posted on:</i>
Australia	January 10, 2018
Thailand	January 10, 2018
Vietnam	January 10, 2018

For additional information, visit:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>



Mongolia boasts of beautiful landscapes and mountainous views. You are welcome to send your photo submissions for future newsletters to:

ulaanbaatarACS@state.gov

Please include your name and the location of the photo.

Laurel Hanson from page 3

- **Empowered People, Improved Livelihoods** improves the livelihoods of the rural population by increasing their access to productive resources and technical knowledge, markets and financing/funding opportunities.
- **Switch off Pollution** reduces the emissions of CO2 and PM from unplanned settlements of Ulaanbaatar's Ger areas.
- **A University Exchange program** between the Mongolian University of Life Sciences and Czech University of Life Sciences.

Laurel is happy to be here and is looking forward to making new memories in Mongolia.

Voting in 2018 from page 1

Researching the Candidates and Issues: Online Resources. Check out the FVAP links page for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues are widely available and easy to obtain online. You can also read national and hometown newspapers online, or search the internet to locate articles and information. For information about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov). FVAP also shares Voting Alerts via Facebook and Twitter.

Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, FVAP.gov. If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact the U.S. Consulate General Auckland Voting Assistance Officer at VoteAuckland@state.gov.

Remember, your vote counts!

Be absent but accounted for!